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2026 Ford Championship presented by Wild Horse Pass

Whirlwind Golf Club – Cattail Course | Phoenix, AZ | March 26-29, 2026

Second-Round Notes

March 27, 2026

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Course Setup: 36-36—72, 6,524 yards

Scoring Average: R1: 69.606; R2: 69.946

Weather: Sunny skies throughout the day become partly cloudy into the evening hours with temperatures reaching into the 100s F and winds remaining light and variable

Race to CME Globe Points: 500 (winner)

Purse: \$2.25 million (winner's prize, \$337,500)

TV/Streaming Times: [How To Watch](#)

QUICK LINKS

[Interview Transcripts](#)

[LPGA Tour Online Media Center \(OMC\)](#)

[Tournament Website](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

LPGA Tour: @LPGA, @LPGAMedia (X), @lpga_tour (Instagram, TikTok)

Tournament: @ford_champ_ (Instagram, X)

LEADERBOARD

	Player	To par	Score
1	Nelly Korda	-16	63-65 – 128
2	Hyo Joo Kim	-14	61-69 – 130
T3	Jenny Bae	-13	66-65 – 131
T3	Minami Katsu	-13	65-66 – 131
T3	Lydia Ko	-13	60-71 – 131

COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS

- 76 players have made the cut at -5 or better
 - The -5 cut is tied for the lowest cut in LPGA Tour history since 1980
 - The most recent -5 cut was at The Standard Portland Classic in 2024
- Sponsor invite and rookie **Asterisk Talley** made the cut at 10-under
 - Her 134 is the lowest 36-hole score by an amateur on the LPGA Tour since 2021
 - Her 134 is her lowest 36-hole score is her career best when playing on Tour
- Leader: **Nelly Korda** leads in Phoenix after a 7-under 65 in R2
 - Her 128 total is a career-best 36-hole score since joining the Tour in 2017
 - Her previous career-best was 130 at the 2020 Walmart NW Arkansas Championship
 - This is her seventh time with the lead or co-lead after 36 holes
 - She has converted two of the previous six into wins
 - Made six birdies, one eagle, and one bogey in R2
 - Hit 10 of 14 fairways, 15 of 18 greens in regulation, and 28 putts
 - Ranks top 10 in eagles made (T2, 2) and birdies made (13, T9) among the field

- Making her third start at the Ford Championship by Wild Horse Pass and won in 2024
- 2nd: **Hyo Joo Kim** is in second with a 130 total
 - The 130 total is a career-best 36-hole score
 - She previously has posted a 131 total two times, most recently at the 2025 BMW Ladies Championship
 - Her second round 69 is her sixth-straight round in the 60's at the Ford Championship presented by Wild Horse Pass
 - Hit 12 of 14 fairways, 14 of 18 greens in regulation, and 31 putts
 - Won at last week's Fortinet Founders Cup
 - Became just the second player since 1980 to win an event in her teens, 20's and 30's joining **Inbee Park**
 - The third player since 2018 to win the week prior to attempt a title defense the following week
- T3: **Jenny Bae**, **Minami Katsu**, and **Lydia Ko** all sit at a 131 total through 36 holes
 - Bae's 131 is her career-best 36-hole score since joining the Tour
 - Her previous best is 134 at the 2025 Buick LPGA Shanghai
 - She is making the cut for the first time at this event in her second start
 - She has one top-10 finish this season, ninth at Blue Bay LPGA
 - Made five birdies, one eagle and was bogey-free in R2
 - Her three eagles through two rounds lead the field
 - Hit 11/14 fairways, 16/18 greens in regulation, and 28 putts
 - Katsu's 131 total is the second-lowest 36-hole total in her career
 - Her career 36-hole total is 130 at the 2023 ANNIKA Driven by Gainbridge at Pelican
 - Also had a 131 36-hole total at the 2025 Buick LPGA Shanghai
 - Made seven birdies and one bogey in R2
 - Her 15 total birdies put her at T3 among the field
 - Hit 11/14 fairways, 13/18 greens in regulation, and 25 putts
 - Ko followed up her first round 60 with a second round 71
 - This is her second time this year with a total of 131 through 36 holes
 - Also had a 131 total at the Honda LPGA Thailand
 - This is her lowest 36-hole total at the Ford Championship presented by Wild Horse Pass in three starts
 - In her first round, she set the 18-hole scoring record with a 60
 - It is also the lowest round of her career
 - She made four birdies and three bogeys in R2
 - Her 16 birdies through two rounds lead the field
 - Hit 13/14 fairways, 14/18 greens in regulation, and 31 putts

A LOOK AT THE LEADER

CATEGORY	Nelly Korda
2026 Race to CME Globe Rank	1
2026 LPGA Tour Wins	1
2026 LPGA Tour Top 10s	2
2026 Official Season Earnings	\$598.0K
Career LPGA Tour Wins	16
Career Official LPGA Tour Top 10s	77
Career Official Money	\$16.7M

ABOUT THE LEADER[Rolex Rankings No. 2 Nelly Korda](#)

- Making her third appearance at the Ford Championship presented by Wild Horse Pass
 - 2025 – T22, 2024 – WON
- 2026: Three cuts made in three starts with a win and an additional top 10 finish
 - Won at the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions
 - Earned a runner-up finish last week at the Fortinet Founders Cup
- Career: 16 wins, 77 top 10s, and \$16.7M in career earnings
 - Earned her 16th LPGA Tour win at the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions
 - Her first since The ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge at Pelican in 2024 (1 year, 2 months, 15 days)
 - Is 28th different American with 16 or more wins on the LPGA Tour
 - Is her lowest round at Lake Nona Golf & Country Club, 65 last season
 - In 2025, she made 19 cuts in 19 starts with nine top 10 finishes
 - In 2024, she became the first player since 2011 to win seven times in a single season
 - She also became the third player in LPGA Tour history to have a season with six or more wins, capture a team victory in the Solheim Cup and earn Player of the Year honors, alongside Beth Daniel (1990) and Annika Sorenstam (2003)
 - 2024 Rolex Player of the Year and Rolex ANNIKA Major Award winner
 - Two-time Olympian for the United States, 2020 Gold Medal winner in Tokyo
 - Four-time U.S. Solheim Cup Team member

TOURNAMENT SCORING RECORDS

18 holes: **60, Lydia Ko** (R1, 2026)

36 holes: **128, Nelly Korda** (2026)

54 holes: 198, Lilia Vu (2025)

72 holes: 266, Hyo Joo Kim and Lilia Vu (2025)

QUOTABLE

Nelly Korda (1st, -16) on the difference between playing in the morning and afternoon

"It's so much harder in the afternoon. The greens get so much bumpier. Not to maybe the viewers' eyes, but when you're reading the putts from down low you can kind of see it. Also I feel like they were a foot faster this afternoon than they were yesterday. So adjusting to that, and then also the bounce. It's just kind of like desert golf, you're expecting it but then more I think the thing that I think that people struggle with is on the greens because they do really get bumpy in the afternoon."

Hyo Joo Kim (2nd, -14) on the difference between her mindset after a slow start in the second round

"I felt like I bogeyed holes I shouldn't have bogeyed in the beginning so wasn't super happy about that. But, I knew I had remaining holes and birdie opportunities so I tried my best to lower my score in the back."

Lydia Ko (T3, -13) on following up her first round 60

"I just didn't really hole many putts today. I hit almost just the same amount of greens, so in that department I felt like it was solid. I was driving it pretty well. It's obviously harder to get closer to the pins just playing in the afternoon and the greens being a little firmer. I think I struggled with a couple of the short ones. Misreading a few. I had a complete brain fart on 13 or something. But that's golf, right? I can't control everything. Yesterday was I think more of the surprise I think just shooting a score like that. At the end of the week I feel like for the most part things balance out, and I feel like my game is trending in the right direction. Hopefully I'll continue the good stuff and hole a few more putts. It's nice to be in this position and in contention going into the weekend."

Jenny Bae (T3, -13) on her "easy" day on the course

"I think today was one of the most calming, just the normal round of golf that I ever had in a while. I felt like everything just kind of clicked. I'm over the ball and I kind of already can visualize the line it's going to take. I just felt like it was a really easy day."

Minami Katsu (T3, -13) on her overall game

"Yes, so I have been pretty much playing with really good feeling since last week was also very good, but my putting wasn't going in. I believe that my shots were both good and I think everything is coming together."

Frida Kinhult (T6, -12) on the differences between her first and second rounds

"Course played a little bit softer I would say this morning compared to yesterday afternoon. Maybe a couple more tucked pins today. Yeah, I played very solid tee to green. Didn't have my best day on the greens but I'm not complaining over a 68."

Chizzy Iwai (T8, -11) on playing in the desert heat

"Since I personally enjoy playing in the heat, I was able to play comfortably today without any particular problems."

Asterisk Talley (T11, -10) on how she bounced back after an early double bogey

"Yeah, I think it's just knowing what I did wrong and just like I know that that wasn't what I was supposed to do. I mean, now I can know like what not to do from here on out and resetting. That was just a mistake. Now I can just focus up and have some good holes coming in."

ON LPGA.COM

[Jenny Bae Cards Second Ace of 2026 in Ford Championship Opening Round](#)

[Jenny Bae Second Round Interview | 2026 Ford Championship presented by Wild Horse Pass](#)

[Asterisk Talley Second Round Interview | 2026 Ford Championship presented by Wild Horse Pass](#)

[Sophia Schubert Second Round Interview | 2026 Ford Championship presented by Wild Horse Pass](#)

[Frida Kinhult Second Round Interview | 2026 Ford Championship presented by Wild Horse Pass](#)

SOCIAL SNAPSHOT

[After making just one cut on the LPGA in 2024 and 2025, Yani Tseng has made two consecutive cuts to start the 2026 season in untraditional fashion 🏌️](#)

[LOTTIE WOAD CHIPS IN TO MAKE CUT !!](#)

[Hole outs >> having to read greens 🏌️](#)

[Nelly from long range 🏌️ She moves her lead to two.](#)

[Getting closer to the players, one step at a time. 🏌️](#)

[Nelly Korda with a smooooth rolling eagle 🏌️](#)

[Adding an eagle to the scorecard for Dewi Weber 🏌️](#)